

COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Term 2 2026



Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff,

We've come to the conclusion of another busy and rewarding term.



The annual Premier's VCE Awards recognise students who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE). Duh Len, who completed Unit 3-4 VCE Hakka Chin last year while in Year 11, has received the 2025 Premier's VCE Award for achieving the highest study score in Victoria in the subject. We are incredibly proud of Duh Len and this outstanding achievement. Congratulations, Duh Len! She will be presented with her award by the Premier on 21 July at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.



This week I have had the pleasure of joining our Year 9 students during their City Experience program and visiting our Year 10 students on Work Experience.

These experiences are an important part of our Middle School program. They provide authentic opportunities for students to build independence, confidence, and real-world experiences and skills, while helping them make meaningful connections between their learning and future pathways. It has been wonderful to see our students representing the College so positively in the wider community.

Whether through academic excellence, authentic learning experiences or service to the community, our students continue to demonstrate the values that make Yarra Hills such a special place.

Another source of great pride this term was our involvement in ANZAC Day commemorations. Our College Captains represented Yarra Hills with distinction, laying wreaths at dawn services in Croydon, Lilydale and Mount Evelyn, and at the midday service in Mooroolbark. They also delivered the ANZAC Requiem at both the Croydon ANZAC March and the Mooroolbark service, while leading and supporting our own commemorative services across both campuses through emceeing and readings.

In May, our students completed the annual Attitudes to School Survey (AtoSS). This survey provides valuable insight into students' experiences of teaching and learning, wellbeing, peer relationships and school connectedness. The results help shape both state-wide education policy and our own school improvement planning.

I was particularly pleased to see that last year's strong positive endorsement from students has improved even further this year. While we know there is always more work to do, these results affirm that our focus on high-quality teaching, student wellbeing and positive relationships is making a genuine difference to our students' experience at Yarra Hills.

I wish all students, families and staff a safe, restful and rejuvenating break. As we head into the second half of the year, we remain committed to providing every student with high-quality learning, strong relationships and opportunities to thrive. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting term of learning at Yarra Hills.

Cam Woods
(Acting) College Principal

GENERAL NEWS

ANZAC Day

In April, our school community came together to commemorate ANZAC Day through assemblies held at both campuses.

We thank our School Captains for their thoughtful and respectful contributions, and extend our appreciation to John Baade, President of the Croydon RSL, for attending and supporting these important occasions.

A wreath was laid in honour of those who have served, as we reflected on the sacrifice, courage and legacy of the ANZACs.

Yarra Hills has a strong community presence and a wonderful tradition of representing and being involved in local ANZAC services.

Our college captains read the ANZAC requiems at the Croydon and Mooroolbark ANZAC community services, and laid wreaths at the Croydon, Lilydale and Mt Evelyn dawn services, and at the Mooroolbark midday service. Our students were also amongst the scout groups, community bands and families attending on the day.



Year 9 OLLEN Careers Expo

Year 9 students stepped into the OLLEN Careers Expo and spent the day talking, exploring, contemplating and planning their future pathways. Moving through a wide range of stalls — including Swinburne University, Box Hill Institute, CIRE, and many more industry and training providers — students had the chance to ask questions, discover new opportunities, and see what possibilities lie ahead.

They engaged with hands-on activities, listened to real stories from people working in different fields, asked insightful questions and began connecting what they enjoy now with what they might pursue later. For many, the expo opened doors to ideas they hadn't considered before; for others, it helped confirm interests they were already developing.

The day encouraged students to imagine their future with confidence, curiosity, and a clearer sense of direction.



Year 9 Swinburne University

Our year 9 students had the opportunity to visit and explore Swinburne University. They participated in workshops learning about closed and open questions. Then practiced these skills with a panel of alumni which included a pilot, film director and Richmond football marketing guru! Students had the chance to ask questions about their career pathways and decision as well as many many footy related questions! Students then went to themed workshops which included filming and editing skits which were both humorous and clever. A fantastic day for our students to continue their career conversations!



Year 10 University Immersion Day



Swinburne Hawthorn Campus hosted our Year 10 students earlier in May as they explored potential future pathways and career opportunities.

Students participated in a mock trial while exploring law courses, engaged in hands-on activities in Engineering and Health, and created creative mini



films inspired by film and television studies.

This experience marks the beginning of an important journey, with students continuing throughout Senior School to visit tertiary institutions and explore further education and career options.

A fantastic day filled with interactive, engaging, and inspiring activities!

Big Week for VCE



It was a big week around the College, with students getting involved in a range of fun activities! Highlights included IDAHOBIT Day, a special celebration in Year 9 Animal Studies for David Attenborough's 100th birthday, VCE Spirit Week featuring Beach Day and Dress Like a Teacher Day and plenty of colour and creativity for



Crazy Sock Day!



Reconciliation Week and Badminton

There have been more fantastic student achievements and participation across the College! During Reconciliation Week activities, Oscar (Year 12) took out the Longest Kick competition and Damon (Year 9) won the colouring competition. We also congratulate our Intermediate Badminton team on winning their division and progressing through to the Zone competition — a great effort by all involved!



METEC

A fantastic day at METEC for our Year 10 students! Students gained practical driving experience and learned important road safety skills to help prepare them for life behind the wheel.



Ice Bucket Challenge

Things got a little chilly around the College as our staff took part in the FightMND Big Freeze challenge!

A huge thank you to everyone who got involved, whether they braved the icy water or supported the cause. It was all for a great reason — helping raise awareness and funds in the fight against Motor Neurone Disease.



Year 10 Social

Our Year 10 students recently came together for their Year 10 Social, enjoying a fantastic evening of dancing, laughter and celebrating the journey they've shared so far. It was a memorable night and one they'll be talking about for years to come! Thanks to all the staff involved in making it such a successful night.



Farm School

Students have successfully completed the Farm School Certificate I program, developing practical skills across a range of environmental and workplace-based activities. Throughout the program, students learned plant propagation techniques, nursery operations, ecological restoration practices, fauna identification, workplace maintenance, and safe tool use.

Excursions to local natural areas provided opportunities to explore diverse ecosystems, observe native wildlife, and learn about the region's environmental and cultural history. Highlights included mountain biking along local trails, visiting forest environments in Toolangi and Warburton, conducting bird and frog surveys, and contributing to revegetation and trail maintenance projects.

The program concluded with students reflecting on their learning and achievements. We congratulate all participants on their commitment, enthusiasm, and successful completion of the course.



Big Bucks Auction

Excitement was high at our Mount Evelyn Campus as Year 11 and 12 VCE VM students took part in the Semester Big Bucks Auction! Throughout the semester, students earned Big Bucks by demonstrating positive behaviours, teamwork and engagement, before cashing them in for the chance to bid on a range of prizes. A fantastic way to celebrate student effort and achievement!



COLLEGE CONCERT



7:30pm

Monday 7 September, 2026

Karralyka Theatre, Ringwood

Tickets:

Adults: \$24

Students/Seniors: \$18

www.karralyka.com.au

KEY DATES Term 3 2026

July		
Monday	13	CURRICULUM DAY - Student Free
Mon-Fri	13-17	NAIDOC Week
Tuesday	14	First Day Term 3
		Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15pm - 4.30pm
Wednesday		Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3:15pm - 4:30pm
Tuesday	21	Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15pm - 4.30pm
		BRAVO: Friends of the Music meeting 6.00pm
Wednesday	22	Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3:15pm - 4:30pm
Thursday	23	Senior Boys Basketball
Tuesday	28	Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15pm - 4.30pm
Wednesday	29	Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3:15pm - 4:30pm
Thursday	30	Year 10 Transition Day
August		
Tuesday	4	Koorie Aspirations ACMI Excursion
		Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15pm - 4.30pm
Wednesday	5	Yr 7 & 8 Sports
Friday	7	Year 10 Course Counselling
Tuesday	11	Yarra Hills Day
		Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15pm - 4.30pm
Wednesday	12	Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3:15pm - 4:30pm
Thursday	13	Year 7 Sport
Friday	14	Year 11 Formal
Tuesday	18	Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15pm - 4.30pm
Wednesday	19	Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3:15pm - 4:30pm
Tuesday	25	Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15pm - 4.30pm
Wednesday	26	Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3:15pm - 4:30pm
Thursday	27	Year 8 Sports
Thurs-Fri	27-28	Music Marathon
September		
Tuesday	1	VCE PE Yarra Ranges Tec Sport Science Excursion
		Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15pm - 4.30pm
Wednesday	2	Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3:15pm - 4:30pm
Monday	7	COLLEGE CONCERT Karralyka Theatre 7pm
Tuesday	8	Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15pm - 4.30pm
Wednesday	9	Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3:15pm - 4:30pm
Thursday	10	Yarra Division Athletics
		Parent Teacher Interviews 4pm-7pm
Friday	11	Parent Teacher Interviews 9am-1.00pm PUPIL FREE DAY
Tuesday	15	Koorie Cultural Immersion Day Excursion
		Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15pm - 4.30pm
Wednesday	16	Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3:15pm - 4:30pm
Friday	18	Last Day Term 2 - 2.30pm Dismissal